Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method of treating ~~a pathological condition~~ an autoimmune disorder in a subject ~~associated with IL-22 activity~~ comprising administering to the subject an ~~effective amount of~~ antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds to interleukin-22 (IL-22) in an amount sufficient to treat the autoimmune disorder in the subject. ~~agent that inhibits levels of IL-22 activity, thereby treating said pathological condition~~.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said autoimmune ~~disorders~~ disorder is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, Crohn's disease, inflammatory bowel disease, lupus, diabetes and psoriasis.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 ~~11~~, wherein said autoimmune disorder is rheumatoid arthritis. ~~regulation of inflammation and acute phase responses is selected from the group consisting of wound healing processes, cholesterol metabolism, oxygen free radical injury, ischemia, atherosclerosis and allergies~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 ~~12~~, wherein said antibody ~~agent~~ is a neutralizing anti-IL-22 antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said subject is a human.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~treating~~ ameliorating symptoms associated with arthritis, ~~said method~~ comprising administering to a subject an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds to IL-22 in an amount sufficient to ameliorate the symptoms in the subject. ~~in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of an IL-22 antibody.~~

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said arthritis is rheumatoid arthritis.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said IL-22 antibody is administered therapeutically.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said IL-22 antibody is administered prophylactically.

21-33. (Canceled)

34. (New) The method of either of claim 10 or 17, wherein said IL-22 comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to amino acids 34-179 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said IL-22 is capable of inducing the phosphorylation of a Stat-3 protein.

35. (New) The method of either of claim 10 or 17, wherein said IL-22 comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical to amino acids 34-179 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said IL-22 is capable of inducing the phosphorylation of a Stat-3 protein.

36. (New) The method of either of claim 10 or 17, wherein said IL-22 comprises the amino acid sequence of amino acids 34-179 of SEQ ID NO:2.

37. (New) The method of either of claim 10 or 17, wherein said IL-22 comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

38. (New) The method of either of claim 10 or 17, wherein said antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, binds to a fragment of IL-22 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 50-60, 63-81, 84-93, and 168-177 of SEQ ID NO:2.

39. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, is a neutralizing antibody.

40. (New) The method of either of claim 10 or 17, wherein said antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, is selected from the group consisting of a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody, a chimeric antibody, a single-chain antibody, a CDR-grafted antibody and a humanized antibody.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein said antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, is a monoclonal antibody.

42. (New) The method of either of claim 10 or 17, wherein said antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, is a human antibody.

43. (New) A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis in a subject, comprising administering to the subject an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds to IL-22 in an amount sufficient to treat the autoimmune disorder in the subject, wherein said IL-22 comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to amino acids 34-179 of SEQ ID NO:2 and is capable of inducing the phosphorylation of a Stat-3 protein.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein said IL-22 comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical to amino acids 34-179 of SEQ ID NO:2 and is capable of inducing the phosphorylation of a Stat-3 protein.

45. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein said IL-22 comprises the amino acid sequence of amino acids 34-179 of SEQ ID NO:2.